HSC owner

Dear Owner/Operator:

If you are an owner or operator of a solvent cleaning machine at a facility that uses any of the following halogenated solvents: methylene chloride, perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene I,I,I,-trichloroethane, carbon tetrachloride or chloroform, you are likely subject to a new EPA regulation controlling air emissions from solvent cleaning machines (degreasers). The upcoming compliance date for most sources is December 2, 1997. If you suspect that you will not be able to meet the compliance deadline, and you are a small business with 100 or fewer employees company-wide, you may be eligible to use EPA's Policy on Compliance Incentives for Small Businesses (The Small Business Policy) and have all or most penalties to which you would otherwise be subject waived. To use the Small Business Policy, you must first notify EPA or the appropriate state agency that you will not be able to comply in time and demonstrate that you meet the eligibility criteria included in the policy.

If you are a business with more than 100 employees, you may qualify for EPA's Incentives for Self-Policing; Discovery, Disclosure, Correction and Prevention of Violations Policy (Audit Policy), which also provides penalty relief.

Please refer to the attached fact sheets for more information on the new air regulation, The Small Business Policy and The Audit Policy. Checklists to help you conduct a compliance audit and determine whether the rule for the halogenated solvent cleaning machine standards applies to you are provided in EPA's guidance, National Emission Standards for Halogenated Solvent Cleaning: Summary of Requirements for Implementing the NESHAP EPA-456R/96-005. To receive a copy, call NCEPI at 1-800-490-9198 or access the document through the Internet at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/degimp.html. For more information on how you can take advantage of the penalty relief provided by the Small Business Policy or identify how to obtain assistance, please contact Karin Leff at (202) 564-7068 or the EPA office in your area.

Sincerely,

Elliott J. Gilberg, Director Chemical, Commercial Services Division